

two governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Glea in the United States Congress and I'm proud to recognize her today on this momentous occasion. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her and in wishing nothing but continued happiness.

HONORING SOPHIA ANN MYERS

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember Sophia Myers, who joined our Heavenly Father on October 20, 2017 after an eight-month battle with a type of brain cancer known as Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

To all who knew her, Sophia was as strong as she was kind. Fondly referred to as "Bug", she is remembered as a confident and witty little girl with an infectious smile and laugh. Sophia was a seven-year-old student at Oak Park Elementary in Ocean Springs, Mississippi and was admired and loved by those who knew her for her vibrant love of life. She enjoyed the outdoors and was an accomplished fisherman, having won two awards at Sea and Sail Camp last year. Sophia was a fast runner and enjoyed running 1-mile races with her dad. She excelled at a variety of sports and participated in swimming, soccer, and was a member of the Girl Scouts. Her mother describes her as a talented dancer with her first lessons beginning when she was only two-years-old. She was a dancer on the competitive dance team Itty Bitty DKG and a student dancer at Donna's Visual and Performing Arts Center. Sophia was also known to be a beautiful singer and regularly made up love songs for her mom and dad.

Sophia was a child of the Lord and believed in His love and goodness even when faced with cancer. Although she was only seven-years-old when God called her home, Sophia's life and story have impacted not only the Gulf Coast community, but international communities as well. Stories of hope, prayer, and loss have been expressed to Sophia and her family from communities in South Africa, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Finland, France, Canada, Brazil, and Sweden to name a few. Many people go through life wishing to make an impression on the world, and Sophia did just that during her short time on this Earth. Her goodness and love inspired many and will continue to do so long after her departure from this world. We offer thanks to the many doctors, nurses and medical staff who worked tirelessly to fight for Sophia and, when time came, made her comfortable during her final moments with her friends and family.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Sophia's parents Angel and Josh Myers, as well as her many friends and family who remember her as a joy for all who were lucky enough to meet her. From my family to yours, we bear this grief with you and offer many prayers as well as thanks for gifting the world with as beautiful a person as Sophia "Bug" Myers.

RECOGNIZING AMRO FABRICATING CORP. ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the pivotal role that small businesses in California's 38th district are playing in transporting humanity to new frontiers in our solar system. As a proud member of the NASA Caucus, I know that the extraordinary feats that the United States has made in space exploration and human spaceflight would not be possible without the ingenuity of small businesses and manufacturers across our country.

I want to recognize one such manufacturer, AMRO Fabricating Corp., which is celebrating its 40th anniversary next week. In 1977, AMRO was established in South El Monte, California by Michael K. and Thora A. Riley. The company first entered the aerospace industry in 1979, and in 1986, McDonnell Douglas selected AMRO to manufacture Isogrid panels for the Titan IV rocket. Over the past 30 years, AMRO has honed its forming process for Isogrid and Orthogrid designs, which allow metal structures to be both lightweight and durable, and are critical for enabling spacecraft and aircraft to fly efficiently and safely.

I am proud of the integral work AMRO is contributing to the development of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) and the Orion spacecraft, which will carry U.S. astronauts farther than ever before and eventually to Mars. Just this August, AMRO delivered window panels for the Orion spacecraft that astronauts will use on its first manned mission, Exploration Mission-2, in the early 2020s. AMRO is also working on elements for the SLS's core stage, which will carry the Orion spacecraft beyond Earth's orbit.

From 1977 to 2017, AMRO's innovation in spaceflight and aerospace have allowed it to grow from just 6 employees to more than 250, as well as to develop training programs for high school and university students. The U.S. space program has an exciting future ahead of it, in no small part due to the dynamism of America's small businesses. Please join me in congratulating AMRO on its 40th anniversary.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND LIFE OF FILEMON "MEMOY" CABASAL DANTES ALINEA

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Filemon "Memoy" Cabasal Dantes Alinea, Sr., and the accomplishments of this distinguished gentleman. Filemon was living in the Philippines and attending Mapua Engineering College when WWII broke out. Upon the news of the war, Filemon immediately gathered his sisters from their college dorms and brought them back to Cabangan, Zambales to be reunited with their parents. He then enlisted and joined the military, where he held a position in the Filipino Army.

During his service in WWII, Filemon was captured by the Japanese, tortured as a prisoner of war, and forced to dig his own grave. Luckily he was rescued. After the war, he reunited with his family and waited for his college to reopen, at which point he returned to Mapua Engineering College to finish his undergraduate studies. Upon completion of his degree in mechanical engineering, Filemon graduated as one of the top students in his class and scored among the highest on his engineering board exams. This marked the beginning of a long and distinguished engineering career.

Filemon's engineering career started when he was a junior engineer assigned to the Caliraya Dam and Hydroelectric Power Plant in Caliraya, Laguna. He then became the Chief Engineer for Marcelo Fertilizer Plant and then Chief Engineer of Union Carbide in Iligan City. After this point, brilliant as he was in his career, Filemon was recruited by PHINMA, a huge conglomerate in the Philippines, where he became their Chief Engineer and Project Manager. In this position, his leadership and building expertise led him to oversee a multitude of expansion and infrastructure projects, including the building and construction of a cement plant and steel plant in Davao, a steel plant in Cebu, and a pulp and paper plant in Bulacan.

At this point in Filemon's career, he was brought on to the team at the PHINMA Corporate Headquarters in Makati. During this time, Filemon decided that the corporate environment of wearing suits and attending board meetings was not for him, and decided to go work for Roblett, an international engineering company. It was at Roblett where he completed the final project of his career, the Mosul Dam in Iraq.

Upon his retirement, Filemon, petitioned by his two daughters who had come for graduate school, immigrated to the United States. During retirement, he enjoyed traveling, touring, fishing and spending time with his family, which included his 6 children and 9 grandchildren. In 1992, Filemon passed away from cancer, may he rest in peace.

He is survived today by his dear wife Beatriz, his 5 remaining children, and his 8 remaining grandchildren. He is beloved and remembered by his family, relatives, and those whose lives he touched for his service during WWII and many throughout the world from his engineering career. He had helped a lot of his relatives, friends, and "kababayan" to find work wherever he had a project to build.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a man who made immense sacrifices for his country and his family through service during WWII, as well as contributions made during his distinguished career as an engineer. It is both fitting and appropriate that we recognize a man who endured hardships for the betterment of others, served his country with distinction, and went on to leave a legacy through his family and his life's work as he is honored for his service. I join the family of Filemon "Memoy" Cabasal Dantes Alinea, Sr. and wish them the best as we honor his service with the Congressional Gold Medal along with the other Filipino veterans of World War II.

## A TRIBUTE TO RON LANDPHAIR

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ron Landphair, of Mount Ayr, Iowa for being selected as a member of the Mount Ayr Community School's Hall of Fame.

Ron graduated from Mount Ayr High School in 1968. He received an education degree and returned to his Alma Mater as an industrial arts teacher and assistant wrestling coach in 1980. Known for his building trades and drafting classes, students were tasked with building houses, designing commercial buildings and school additions, and restoring local landmarks.

Mr. Speaker, Ron's dedication to his community embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him, and Iowans like him, in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ron for his achievements and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

## HONORING 1ST LT. DONALD GILLEN (RET.)

**HON. MIKE BOST**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Donald Gillen's honorable service to our nation during World War II.

Born April 14, 1927 in Lincoln, Nebraska, Donald graduated from Lincoln High School and joined the U.S. Army on July 26, 1945. Faithfully serving our country at Camp O'Donnell, Philippines from November 1946 until June 1947, Donald was a part of the 12th Philippine Scout Division before becoming a company commander in the 57th Infantry Regiment in Manila.

Becoming a reservist and member of the National Guard, Donald returned home to Lincoln to graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska. He began a new career with the York News-Times in 1969 and eventually became the publisher of the newspaper, retiring in 1988. Husband to his college sweetheart Marilyn Gillen, father to one, and grandfather to four, Donald is known as a family man—moving to Belleville, Illinois to be closer to his child and grandchildren. Today, he is a guest editorial staffer for the Belleville News-Democrat and writes occasional editorials while supporting his wife's singing in the St. George Episcopal Church choir.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service that Donald dutifully gave to our nation during World War II. We are forever grateful for his service.

## HONORING DAVID GILL FOR RECEIVING THE 2017 AWARD OF HONOR BY WESTERN GROWERS

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleague Representative JIMMY PANETTA, rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. David Gill, who was selected by Western Growers to receive the 2017 Award of Honor for his numerous contributions and esteemed leadership in the agriculture industry.

Mr. Gill, a third generation California grower, began his agricultural career at age six by helping his father and grandfather install pipes on their farm. He continued working on his father's ranch while attending California Polytechnic State University. In 1979, he and his brother, Steve, founded Rio Farms in Ventura City. Then, in 1983, they formed Gills Onions and pioneered the first system to deliver peeled, sliced, and diced onions in the food processing industry. It is now the largest onion processor in the United States.

David has routinely advocated to Congress and the state legislature about the agriculture industry's most significant issues regarding labor, water, and regulatory compliance laws. Gills Onions has also focused on reducing their carbon footprint by developing a system that uses the waste from onion processing to generate electricity and eliminate disposal costs.

As Gill Onions and Rio Farms continued to grow, David played an integral role in some of California's largest fresh vegetable companies, including Taylor Farms California Inc., Earthbound Farms, and Church Bros. LLC. In 1987, David and seven farmers formed Growers Express, one of the nation's largest suppliers of fresh vegetables.

In addition to involvement in various business operations, David values a strong emphasis on community involvement and industry organizations. He has generously donated his time in leadership roles with Western Growers, Hartnell College Ag Steering, Grower Shipper Association of Central California, California Farm Bureau Federation, and Produce Marketing Association.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in honoring and recognizing our friend for receiving Western Growers' 2017 Award of Honor. David Gill has provided innovative technology to the agricultural community and he continues to be a leading voice for change in the agriculture industry. God bless him always.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRENDA L. LAWRENCE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on October 12, 2017, I was not able to cast my votes during the first vote series due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: YES on Democrat Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2810—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018; YES on Motion on Closing Portions of

the Conference on H.R. 2810—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018; YES on H.R. 2266—Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017, as amended; YES on Motion to Recommit S. 585—Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017; and YES on Passage of S. 585—Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017.

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. VIRGENE WEBB PETERSON

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the life and legacy of one of Clinton County's most distinguished citizens, a woman who devoted her life to the service of others, Ms. Virgene Webb Peterson.

Born in 1924, Ms. Peterson spent nearly all 93 of her years working to improve the lives of her Clinton County neighbors by undertaking one of the most noble of all professions: teaching children. From the onset of her career at Kingman Township School in 1943, to her retirement from Denver Place in 1993, thousands of students passed through her classroom, and each one left motivated by Ms. Peterson's love of learning.

To attempt to quantify Ms. Peterson's impact is impossible. She has inspired generations of engaged citizens with her example of kindness, stewardship, and civic participation. In addition to being one of the longest-serving teachers in the State of Ohio, she volunteered her time and talents to countless organizations including the Leadership Clinton Youth Collaborative, Chester Friends Meeting, the Clinton County Retired Teachers Association, the Ohio Retired Teachers Association, the Mt. Pleasant Grange, Young Mother's Club, Progress Club, and Turning the Corner.

Like a pebble dropped in a pond, the ripples created by Ms. Peterson's life and work are far-reaching. Her legacy will live on in the memories of those who knew her and loved her: her son, Jay, and daughter, Bunny, and their spouses, Cindy and Ed; her grandchildren, Adam, Maggie, Heath, Amanda, and Curt; her great-grandchildren, Owen, Ava, and Aubrie; and the rest of her extended family.

Clinton County is undeniably a better place because of Ms. Virgene Webb Peterson, and I am honored to celebrate her life and legacy.

## A TRIBUTE TO JUDY AND GARY NISSEN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judy and Gary Nissen of Afton, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Judy and Gary's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our